

**MINUTES  
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON  
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY**

Tuesday, June 12, 2012  
6:00 pm Kelly Room, City Hall, 401 North Morton Street

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012

**Roll Call:**

Members present: Maggie Sullivan, David Parkhurst, Claire Cumberland, Gary Charbonneau, Cynthia Schultz, Ashley Skooglund, Bill Brown

Regrets: David Rollo, Amy Countryman, Amanda Figolah, Caleb Steiner, George Huntington,

Staff: Jacqui Bauer

Chair Maggie Sullivan called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

**Announcements:**

Three interns (including new BCOS summer intern Marguerite Huber) joined the meeting.

An event, Knitting to Heal, will kick off on June 16. Local knitters are invited to participate.

Maggie announced the Center for Sustainable Living event on June 23.

The local slow food movement will have their big annual fundraiser on August 12.

Carrie Albright joined from the Environmental Commission. She noted that there has been some overlap between BCOS and EC initiatives, and wanted to bring their activities to BCOS's attention to see if there might be opportunities to cooperate. The EC continues to maintain the **Bloomington Environmental Quality Indicators** website (upcoming focus areas are air, energy, and transportation). The EC **Planning Committee** reviews development proposals for green building features, natural landscaping, etc. Their **Lawns for Life** program continues to focus on natural landscaping. They've just started a **Waste Reduction Committee**; this committee has worked on reduction in restaurant waste and reduction in waste in school cafeterias, and is also working to reduce waste at the Taste of Bloomington.

Maggie mentioned that some BCOS members have been involved in the reduction of school cafeteria waste, and she will forward reports on this initiative to Carrie.

**Approval of Minutes:**

The May minutes were approved.

**Presentation by Benjamin Schultz on Sustainable Business Certification Program**

Benjamin has been working for two years and with two interns (Erin and Amanda) for the last year on a new Sustainable Business Certification Program. They are developing a website and program, and have already had some businesses review the template. At

different points in the process, Local First and the Chamber of Commerce have provided input.

Schultz et al are proposing a two-phase program, with the first phase focused on commonalities among all types of businesses, and the second phase tailored to specific types of businesses. The Phase 1 questionnaire contains over 140 questions. This phase will also focus on education in terms of giving businesses ideas on how they can become more sustainable. The team would then assist participating businesses in putting together their first sustainability report.

They will be focusing on Phase 2 this summer, which will target businesses that have gone through Phase 1 and committed to issuing a sustainability report each year.

They hope to have the City take over the program, but there may be other ways the program could be set up.

Two Informatics students have put together a website, but the site isn't populated with information since the program isn't up and running yet.

The sustainability report will be used as a template to gauge progress over time.

Benjamin will plan to come back in the fall with an update.

#### **Update from the Food Policy Council – David Parkhurst**

Stephanie Solomon has temporarily stepped down from the Policy Council.

The Governing Committee will transition to a board development committee. There are currently no co-chairs for other committees. This committee is also intending to apply for 501c3 status.

The Assessment Committee has sent out survey forms and is evaluating data.

Education/outreach committee: Ready Set Grow took place last Saturday and was well-received. Garden the City is working to connect with City and County Government. Also interested in exploring the establishment of a food charter.

They've also held a visioning session for people to share their ideas.

#### **Report from the Chair**

*Third quarter focus on waste:* We need someone to be interviewed on Ecoreport, someone to submit a guest column, and someone to do a Speak Your Mind piece. Claire volunteered to do the editorial, and Maggie will do Speak Your Mind. Amanda's environmental club will probably be able to do an Ecoreport (Amanda was not present to confirm).

Jacqui is doing a trial run with recycling stations at the Taste of Bloomington this year. She explored composting but hasn't found a solution yet—Ashley suggested that contacting Steve Hale. Volunteers are also needed. Claire may be able to help.

Bill is working to connect local growers to compost from dining halls and other organic waste on campus. They're working with IDEM and the administration on campus to move this initiative forward.

For next quarter, the focus may be on the sustainable business certification program, and/or on an education push, and/or a transportation-focused effort.

*Board building/self assessment:*

Maggie will send this to those who weren't present at the last meeting and will report next month.

The commission voted unanimously to cancel the August BCOS meeting because both chairs will be out of town.

### **Committee reports**

*STAR committee report:* The committee has completed waste and transportation, and is now moving on to food as the next topic. They are now looking for help from BCOS members to help support their work to gather information. Claire and Dave P. both volunteered. Cynthia will work with them to set up the next meeting.

*Environmental Commission Planning Committee:* No report this month since Caleb is not present.

### **New business:**

Cynthia asked for BCOS to consider sponsoring a "Green Tree" for the Knitting to Heal effort in October in the amount of \$250-500. Ashley suggested that the Monroe County Environmental Quality & Sustainability Commission might also be sponsors. Maggie will also talk to Carrie and the EC to see if they might cosponsor as well. The commission voted unanimously to support a partial sponsorship.

Ashley has talked to several people locally about coordinating a bus tour to the Nusun solar plant in Columbus, possibly in the fall. She will explore with SIREN and others. Cynthia will help organize.

### **Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.